

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
30 June 2005 (30.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/060145 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04L 1/18**,
1/00, H04B 7/005, H04L 1/18

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2004/014441

(22) International Filing Date:
17 December 2004 (17.12.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
03029411.0 19 December 2003 (19.12.2003) EP

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

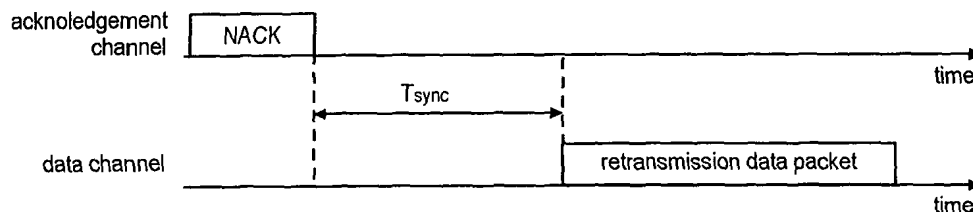
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: HARQ PROTOCOL WITH SYNCHRONOUS RETRANSMISSIONS



(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to a hybrid automatic repeat request (HARQ) method for transmitting data packets from a transmitting entity to a receiving entity via a data channel. Further, the present invention is related to mobile stations, base stations, radio network controllers and communication systems performing in the HARQ method. To overcome problems resulting from asynchronous retransmissions, the present invention provides a HARQ method sending retransmissions synchronous. According to the method, a feedback message is received from the receiving entity at the transmitting entity and, in case the feedback message indicates that the data packet has not been received successfully, a retransmission data packet is transmitted to the receiving entity after a predetermined time span upon having received said feedback message. The receiving entity soft combines the retransmission data packet with the previously received data packet.

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